

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 179007 SENT ACTION HONG KONG, MANILA,
BANGKOK, VIENTIANE, RANGOON, SEOUL & TOKYO DTD 8 SEP 73:

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, OREP

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: CODEL WOLFF PRESS CONFERENCE

1. MORNING SEPT. 7, REPS. LESTER WOLFF, PETE STARK,
CHARLES RANGEL, AND BELLA ABZUG GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE ON
THEIR RECENT NARCOTICS CONTROL STUDY MISSION TO SOUTHEAST
ASIA. TEXT OF STATEMENT ISSUED AT THIS CONFERENCE IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE. WE ARE REPORTING ON OUR INVESTIGATION OF NARCOTICS
TRAFFIC IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THIS STUDY MISSION WAS MADE FOR
A NUMBER OF REASONS. WE WANTED TO IMPRESS THE HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH THIS NATION'S DETER-
MINATION TO STOP THE FLOW OF DRUGS FROM THAT PART OF THE
WORLD INTO THE UNITED STATES. SOME NATIONS CONTINUE TO
BELIEVE THAT DRUG ABUSE IS OUR PROBLEM TO SOLVE WITHOUT
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ANY ASSISTANCE OR COOPERATION FROM THEM. WE BELIEVE THAT
THIS PURPOSE OF OUR VISIT WAS ACCOMPLISHED, FOR THERE CAN
BE
LITTLE DOUBT NOW IN THEIR MINDS AS TO THE DEPTH OF OUR

CONCERN.

QUOTE. SECONDLY, WE WENT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA TO INFORM AMERICAN DRUG ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF OUR SUPPORT AND DESIRE TO ASSIST THEM IN PROVIDING THE NECESSARY IMPLEMENTS AND FUNDING TO FIGHT THIS ALL OUT WAR. WE TALKED TO PEOPLE ON THE SCENE, THOSE WHOSE ACTIVITIES BRING THEM IN CONTACT DAILY WITH NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS, TO ELICIT THEIR THOUGHTS ON WHAT THE CONGRESS CAN DO TO HELP THEM AND REINFORCE THEIR EFFORTS.

QUOTE. FINALLY, WE WANT OUR MISSIONS IN THESE NATIONS TO BE MORE SENSITIVE TO THE STRENGTH OF OUR CONVICTION THAT THIS DIRTY BUSINESS, THE MOST TREACHEROUS ENEMY EVER FACED BY THE UNITED STATES IS TO BE A NUMBER ONE PRIORITY. WE WENT THERE TO DEMAND ACTION AND AN UNFLINCHING COMMITMENT AND THAT THEIR EFFORTS BE INTENSIFIED TO ELIMINATE THE SCOURGE OF DRUG ABUSE FROM OUR COUNTRY.

QUOTE. GATHERING INFORMATION TO GET AN ACCURATE PICTURE WAS A COMPLICATED EFFORT. FIRST OF ALL, WE DID NOT RECEIVE THE EXTENT AND KIND OF COOPERATION FROM AMERICAN OFFICIALS THAT WE EXPECTED. IN MANY CASES, WE FOUND OURSELVES HAVING TO RELY ON OUTSIDE SOURCES--INFORMERS AND THE LIKE --TO GET ANSWERS TO MANY OF OUR QUESTIONS, EITHER BECAUSE OUR OWN PEOPLE WERE UNWILLING TO TELL US WHAT THEY KNEW, OR THEY SIMPLY HAD ONLY MINIMAL INFORMATION AT THEIR DISPOSAL. ALTHOUGH WE SPOKE WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS, CIA, DEA AND FORMER BNDD AGENTS AND CUSTOMS PERSONNEL IN EVERY NATION WE VISITED, WE COULD NOT GET FROM SOME OF THESE PEOPLE HARD FACTS ABOUT ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC OPERATIONS. EVEN WHEN WE ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS WE HAD RECEIVED FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES, WE WERE TOLD THAT CHARGES ABOUT CARAVAN OR TRAWLER OPERATIONS, TRAFFIC ROUTES OR EXPORT POINTS COULD NOT BE VERIFIED. EITHER OUR OWN PEOPLE WERE UNWILLING TO TELL US THE FACTS, OR THEY DID NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO KNOW WHAT THE FACTS WERE.

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QUOTE. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS AND THOROUGHNESS OF AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL IS SEVERELY HAMPERED BY A LACK OF SHEER MANPOWER, AND IN PARTICULAR, BY A LACK OF TRAINED MANPOWER. THE NUMBER OF OVERSEAS PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO NARCOTICS OPERATIONS MUST BE INCREASED AND IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT OUR AGENTS BE TRAINED, NOT ONLY IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTIGATORY OPERATIONS, BUT ALSO POSSESS A FACILITY IN LANGUAGE IF THEY ARE TO PERFORM THEIR JOBS ADEQUATELY.

QUOTE. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT POSITION SEEMS TO BE GUIDED BY THE PROPOSITION THAT, REGARDLESS OF THE VOLUME

OF DRUG TRAFFIC, IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENTS AGAINST INSURGENCIES THAN TO WIPE OUT DRUG TRAFFIC. WE WERE TOLD THAT IF A VIGOROUS CRACK-DOWN HAS CONDUCTED AGAINST OPIUM GROWERS, THESE FARMERS WOULD BE FORCED QUOTE INTO THE HANDS OF THE COMMUNISTS AND OTHER DISSIDENT ELEMENTS. UNQUOTE. THE THREAT TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF OTHER NATIONS SEEMS TO BE OF GREATER CONCERN THAN THE DIRECT THREAT TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THIS NATION.

QUOTE. NOT ONLY DOES THE U.S. SEEM TO CONSIDER INSURGENCIES MORE SERIOUS THAN OPIUM PRODUCTION, BUT AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR MANY SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IS CONTINUED DESPITE RUMORED INVOLVEMENT OF SOME SOUTHEAST ASIAN OFFICIALS IN DRUG PRODUCTION AND TRAFFIC. WE ARE ENGAGED IN AN ALL OUT WAR ON NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRAFFIC AND WE MUST USE EVERY WEAPON AT OUR COMMAND TO WIN THIS WAR. IF IT MEANS AND END TO AID TO A NON-COOPERATING NATION-- TRADE SANCTIONS OR EVEN BREAKING RELATIONS-- IT SEEMS WE MUST TAKE ACTION NOW: WE MUST STOP TALKING ABOUT DRUG ADDICTION AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

QUOTE. WE CANNOT EXPECT FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS OF ACETIC ANHYDRIDE TO LIMIT ITS PRODUCTION IF THE U.S., ALSO A MANUFACTURER, DOES NOT TAKE STEPS TO CONTROL IT. IT IS CLEAR THAT PRODUCTION OF THIS CHEMICAL MUST BE CONTROLLED. WE WILL BE WRITING TO THE NINE AMERICAN COMPANIES WHICH PRODUCE ACETIC ANHYDRIDE, ASKING THEIR COOPERATION IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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CONTROLLING PRODUCTION. IN THIS WAY, WE HOPE TO ENCOURAGE OTHER NATIONS TO FOLLOW OUR EXAMPLE, AND LIMIT THEIR OWN PRODUCTION.

QUOTE. SECONDLY, CROP SUBSTITUTION IS FACING A SERIOUS HANDICAP IN PROVIDING ADEQUATE INCOME FOR THOSE FARMERS WHO HAVE DISCONTINUED OPIUM PRODUCTION. OPIUM YIELDS A BARE LIVING FOR THE MANY HILL FARMERS WHO PRODUCE POPPY. WHILE THE U.N. HAS AT TIMES BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ENCOURAGING THESE FARMERS TO PRODUCE OTHER FARM PRODUCTS, THEY ARE HANDICAPPED, FOR THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO REPLACE THESE CROPS WHICH PROVIDE LESS INCOME FOR THE FARMER AND HIS FAMILY. THE UNITED NATIONS IS NOT ABLE TO SUBSIDIZE THE SMALL DIFFERENCE THESE CROPS PROVIDE. THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CANNOT DO SO FOR THEY ARE PROHIBITED BY LAW FROM SUBSIDIZING OVERSEAS PRODUCTION OF CROPS WHICH WOULD BE COMPETITIVE ON THE WORLD MARKET WITH AMERICAN FARM PRODUCTS. SOME WAY MUST BE FOUND TO REIMBURSE THOSE FARMERS WHO COOPERATE WITH CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS OR THEY WILL RETURN TO POPPY PRODUCTION. IN ALL, ONLY DOLS. 18,000 WAS NECESSARY IN

THE THAI PROJECT AND THE MONEY COULDN'T BE FOUND.
EIGHTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO REPLACE OPIUM WORTH MORE THAN
DOLS. 25 MILLION AT STREET LEVEL PRICES IN NEW YORK-- AND
UNTOLD MILLIONS IN STREET CRIME. WHERE IS THE LOGIC OF
THIS POLICY?

QUOTE. WE CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE THE PERSISTENT THREAT OF
DRUG ABUSE IN THIS NATION. HEROIN CONTINUES TO CRIPPLE A
LARGE SEGMENT OF OUR POPULATION, AND WITHOUT A SERIOUS,
MULTIFACETED ATTACK ON THE PROBLEM, WE CAN NEVER EXPECT
TO CONTROL THIS THREAT. WE ARE FACED WITH A WAR-- A
SHOOTING WAR AS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS AS THE SHOOTING WAR
JUST ABOUT ENDED IN INDO CHINA. THIS NEW WAR DEMANDS
COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES AS DID THE OTHER. IT IS TAKING
TOO LONG FOR THE UNITED STATES TO MOBILIZE FOR THE FIGHT
AGAINST DRUG ABUSE. OUR CHILDREN AND OUR FUTURE SUFFER
BECAUSE OF THIS FAILURE TO ACT.

QUOTE. WE WILL BE ISSUING A REPORT ON OUR STUDY MISSION
WHICH WILL BACK UP EACH OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS IN DETAIL.
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WE HAVE FOUND OUR INTERCOMMITTEE BACKGROUNDS EXTREMELY
USEFUL IN STUDYING THIS PROBLEM AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK
TOGETHER IN THE HOUSE. THIS STUDY GROUP WILL NOT DISBAND
AS LONG AS NARCOTICS ADDICTION CONTINUES TO PLAGUE THIS
COUNTRY. UNQUOTE.

2. WAVING HONG KONG PRESS ARTICLE WITH CAPTION "YANKEE
GO HOME," WOLFF TOLD PRESS IN SEPARATE REMARKS THAT HIS
STATEMENTS ABOUT INVOKING TRADE SANCTIONS HAD BEEN
EXAGGERATED BY HONG KONG PRESS ALTHOUGH IT WAS TRUE THAT
IF NECESSARY, HE WOULD CERTAINLY RECOMMEND IT GIVEN
GRAVITY OF DRUG ABUSE SITUATION IN U.S.

3. POINTS THAT WOLFF STRESSED DURING PRESS CONFERENCE
WERE: 1) NEED TO CHANGE ATTITUDE OF SEA OFFICIALS SUCH
AS HONG KONG COMMISSIONER ROLPH WHO DO NOT TAKE DRUG
ABUSE SERIOUSLY ENOUGH; 2) DUTY OF GOVERNMENT TO FIND
OUT IF SEA, ESPECIALLY HONG KONG IS CENTER OF DRUG
TRAFFIC TO U.S., WHICH FROM SEPARATE SOURCES HE KNOWS BE
TRUE; 3) DIFFERING INFORMATION HE RECEIVED FROM U.S.
MISSIONS IN SEA IN PRIVATE SESSIONS AS COMPARED TO PUBLIC
BRIEFINGS; 4) ALTHOUGH MISSIONS GAVE GOOD FACILITATIVE
ASSISTANCE FOR TRIP, THEY WERE NOT SHOWING SUFFICIENT
SERIOUSNESS IN TREATING DRUG PROGRAM; 5) NEED FOR MORE
U.S. MANPOWER FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM IN ASIA; 6)
NEED FOR GREATER LANGUAGE CAPABILITY ON PART DEA PERSONNEL;
7) WHILE CODEL COULD FIND NO EVIDENCE OF PRC INVOLVEMENT
IN TRAFFICKING, PRC OUGHT TO BE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT
TRAWLERS UNLOADING ON ITS ISLANDS NEAR HONG KONG; 8) U.S.

SHOULD HAVE CONTROLS ON ACETIC ANHYDRIDE IN ORDER SET
EXAMPLE FOR CONTROLS IN JAPAN; AND 9) NEED TO
ELIMINATE U.S. LAW THAT PROHIBITS OUR PURCHASING
COMPETITIVE CROPS SO THAT WE CAN PARTICIPATE IN CROP
SUBSTITUTION SCHEMES (USED BEAN CROP EXAMPLE MENTIONED
PRESS STATEMENT).

4. WHEN ASKED BY NEWSMAN IF NARCOTICS CONTROL
PROGRAM WASN'T REALLY "EXERCISE IN FUTILITY," WOLFF
DISAGREED AND ENDED PRESS CONFERENCE ON POSITIVE NOTE
USING EXAMPLES OF PROGRESS IN THAILAND AND VIETNAM.

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5. CONGRESSWOMAN ABZUG IN HER REMARKS HAMMERED ON THEME
OF U.S. SUPPORTING CORRUPT GOVERNMENTS AND COUNTER-
INSURGENTS IN ITS ORDER OF PRIORITIES RATHER THAN
FIGHTING WAR OF DRUG ABUSE IN U.S. HALF THE GOVERNMENT
IN LAOS, SHE SAID, WAS INVOLVED IN DRUG TRADE BUT U.S.
SUPPORTS IT AND OTHERS LIKE IT. SHE SECONDED WOLFF'S
IDEA THAT AID AND TRADE RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE USED
AGAINST NON-COOPERATING COUNTRIES. SHE SINGLED OUT
INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. MILITARY IN DRUG USE AND TRAFFICKING,
NOTING GROWING PROBLEM IN THAILAND.

6. WITHOUT ELABORATING ON POINT, CONGRESSMAN RANGEL
SAID CODEL HAD FOUND MORE EVIDENCE OF CIA INVOLVEMENT
THAN PRC INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG TRAFFICKING. HE SAID IT
WAS EMBARRASSING TO SEE OUR U.S. OFFICIALS PROTECTING
HOST GOVERNMENTS WHEN DRUGS WERE AFFECTING OUR YOUTH AT
HOME; HE CLAIMED THAT CODEL HAD FOUND A FACADE OF COOPERA-
TION FROM ALL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD. AND HE SAID
HE HIMSELF PREFERRED "GUESTIMATES" TO "DON'T KNOW ANSWERS"
THEY RECEIVED.

7. CONGRESSMAN STARK POINTED OUT THAT LOAS HAD NOT
BROUGHT TO TRIAL THE LEGISLATOR WHO WAS ARRESTED FOR
DRUG TRAFFICKING AND STATED THAT MANY ASSEMBLYMEN IN LAOS
REMAIN INVOLVED WITH DRUGS BUT ARE UNTOUCHABLE BY
AUTHORITIES. HE COMMENTED THAT MORE TOTALITARIAN THE
GOVERNMENT, MORE DRUG PROBLEM SEEMED DISAPPEAR.

8. SEPT. 8 MORNING EDITIONS SO FAR HAVE CARRIED NO
MENTION OF CODEL WOLFF PRESS CONFERENCE. POSTS INVITED
COMMENT ASAP IF WISH CONTRIBUTE TO OUR RESPONSE TO ANY
PRESS QUESTIONS ARISING OUT OF CODEL WOLFF STATEMENTS. RUSH
UNQUOTE RUSH

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